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For Openers

Editorial Board

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This issue of *Conversations* seeks to address the tension that exists between the institutional loyalty of faculty, staff and/or administrators and their loyalties to professional or disciplinary organizations. Hence the title of the issue, and the emphasis on professionalization.

The seminar found the essays chosen for this issue provocative, informative, and argumentative. They also present a number of personal perspectives on the issue of loyalty to one's discipline, the students and our universities and colleges. In short, these essays should provide good "conversation starters" on our campuses. They are theoretical and concrete. They also include best practices in key areas having to do with institutional loyalty. In some cases the articles are place-specific, but the seminar also believes that all the articles offer something to the conversation on the broad issue of professionalism.

New To This Issue

In an effort to enliven further the graphic appeal of *Conversations*, we begin, with this issue, including photos from the various Jesuit campuses in the United States. Media relations people at all the schools have been contacted, and in each of the next several issues we shall be highlighting four different colleges and universities, using the graphic material that they themselves have sent to us.

For those many faculty, administrators and staff who have asked whether *Conversations* is available on-line: it is now available through the AJCU web

site (www.ajcunet.edu) or -- on many Jesuit college and university campuses -- through your online library catalogue. With the help of Marquette University's Religious Commitment Fund, administrators and staff of Marquette's Memorial Library have developed a web site where all issues will be available, along with author, subject, and title indices. Individual articles or issues may be reproduced without written permission, so long as credit is given to *Conversations* on the first page of the reprinted material.

For those new to *Conversations*, the National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education regularly solicits suggestions for possible future themes as well as responses to past issues and/or essays. See the inside back cover of each issue for a list of themes currently under discussion.

For news of events on particular Jesuit campuses, see the AJCU (Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities) website: www.ajcunet.edu.

By Way of Farewell.

With this issue I end a three-year stint as editor of *Conversations*. It has been one of the most invigorating and challenging endeavors with which I have been associated. I thank the members of the seminar, the AJCU and the Jesuit Conference for having had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Ed Block Jr.